

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 151400Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5743
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USINT BAGHDAD

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(SENATOR MATHIAS HAS NOT SEEN THIS MESSAGE)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, XF, PLO, PFOR
SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIAL'S VIEW ON ARAB SUPPORT FOR
PALESTINIAN STATE

1. DURING A CONVERSATION APRIL 13 WITH MFA DIRECTOR
OF MIDDLE EAST AND EASTERN MED. AFFAIRS (VERED), SENATOR
CHARLES MATHIAS ASKED HER ABOUT THE ATTITUDES OF VARIOUS
ARAB STATES TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN
STATE. VERED PREFACED HER RESPONSE BY SAYING THAT
THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE AMONG THE ARABS WITHIN THE
LAST TWO YEARS ON THIS ISSUE, NOT A BASIC CHANGE, BUT
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WHAT SHE CALLED A "CHANGE OF CONSCIOUSNESS." VERED
THEN SUMMARIZED THE VARIOUS ARAB POSITIONS AS
FOLLOWS.

2. IRAQ HAS NEVER BEEN INTERESTED IN SEEING A
PALESTINIAN STATE, ALTHOUGH IT HAS REFRAINED FROM
SAYING THIS IN SO MANY WORDS. AN IRAQI-PALESTINIAN

FRONT ORGANIZATION--THE ARAB LIBERATION FRONT--DID SAY IN 1970 "WE DON'T WANT A PALESTINIAN STATE, THERE ARE ALREADY 14 ARAB STATES TOO MANY." ACCORDING TO THE ALF, A PALESTINIAN "ENTITY" MIGHT SERVE AS A CATALYST FOR UNIFYING THE ARAB WORLD BUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN "STATE" SHOULD NOT BE AN END IN ITSELF.

3. THE SYRIANS HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE IDEA OF A PALESTINIAN STATE VERY SERIOUSLY, AND SOMETIMES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS PUBLICLY. NEVERTHELESS, TEXTBOOKS FOR SYRIAN SCHOOLCHILDREN STILL SPEAK OF "NATIONAL SYRIA" (NOT "GREATER SYRIA", WHICH IS A HASHEMITE TERM), WHICH INCLUDES PRESENT-DAY SYRIA, LEBANON, JORDAN, AND "PALESTINE." VERED REFERRED TO AN INTERVIEW BY SAIQA LEADER ZUHAYR MOHSIN IN DUTCH PAPERS, IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THERE IS NO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. "THE SYRIANS ENCOURAGE MOHSIN TO SAY PUBLICLY THINGS WHICH THEY DON'T WANT TO SAY THEMSELVES," VERED SAID. EVEN SO, SHE SAID, THE SAME IDEA IS EXPRESSED HERE AND THERE IN BAATH PARTY ORGANS.

4. KUWAIT/SAUDI ARABIA. THE KUWAITIS HAVE SOME HESITATION ABOUT A PALESTINIAN STATE. THIS IS APPARENT FROM A COMPARISON OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO THE UAE AND KUWAIT. THE COMMUNIQUE WERE SIMILAR IN NEARLY EVERY RESPECT, EXCEPT THAT THE UAE COMMUNIQUE SPOKE OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PALESTINIAN STATE, WHEREAS THE KUWAITI ONE AVOIDED THE MENTION OF IT. VERED SAID THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE HAD SEEN SUCH A DIFFERENCE AND ADDED THAT THE KUWAITIS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE LEBANESE WAR. THE SAUDI ATTITUDE IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS THE KUWAITI ONE, VERED SAID (WITHOUT FURTHER ELABORATION).

5. THE EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE IS MOST COMPLICATED OF ALL THE ARAB STATES. SADAT WOULD PREFER A PALESTINIAN STATE IN THE WHOLE OF PALESTINE, ONE THAT IS WEAK AND UNDER EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE. THIS WOULD PREVENT A SYRIAN SEIZURE OF THE ARAB LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE WEAKNESS OF THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY, SADAT CANNOT POSSIBLY ACHIEVE THIS GOAL FOR THE TIME BEING AND HE WOULD THEREFORE PROBABLY SETTLE FOR AN INDEPENDENT WEST BANK/GAZA STATE (WITH A CORRIDOR), ONE WHICH WOULD HAVE COMMON BORDERS WITH EGYPT. BECAUSE SADAT ALSO SEES THIS OPTION AS

UNLIKELY, HE HAS SUGGESTED A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE AND JORDAN, PROVIDED THIS IS DONE IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE PALESTINIANS ARE NOT SWALLOWED BY JORDAN. (TO SOME EXTENT, SAUDI ARABIA SHARES THIS IDEA, BECUASE IT DOES NOT WANT SYRIA TO SWALLOW JORDAN.) BETWEEN THE REALITY OF TODAY'S JORDAN RULED BY HUSSEIN AND SADAT'S DREAMS OF A FUTURE STATE, HE PROBABLY SEES THE EVENTUAL "PALESTINIZATION" OF JORDAN. EGYPT'S LONG-TERM DILEMMA IS HOW TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF ARAB LEADERSHIP WHICH, AT THE SAME TIME, MANAGING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

6. JORDAN OBVIOUSLY IS NOT INTERESTED IN ANY PALESTINIAN STATE, VERED SAID.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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